

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Sheila Bell
Subject: RE: [External] Letter of Protest Docket No. 2019-281-S
Attachments: 2019-281-S NOH.pdf

Dear Ms. Bell,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

I have attached the Notice of Hearing for this Docket to this email.

Sincerely,

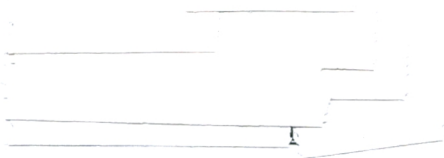
Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant
803-896-5133

From: Sheila Bell
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 11:33 AM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Letter of Protest Docket No. 2019-281-S

Please find my letter of protest attached. I look forward to finding out when the hearing will be held so that I can voice my concerns publicly. I would also like to suggest the rate increase be suspended until the public hearing and audit results are published.



Sheila Bell-I



*****It is absolutely my pleasure to serve you and anyone you know with all of your real estate needs!***



Save as PDF file and Email form
to: contact@psc.sc.gov

* Required Fields

Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2019-281-S

Date: * 01/21/2020

Protestant Information:			
Name *	Sheila Bell		
Mailing Address *			
City, State Zip *	Blythewood	SC 29016	Phone *
E-mail			

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of City of Columbia .

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am protesting the obscene rate increase by The City of Columbia for sewer services. How is it possible that the proposed sewer cost is almost double the water bill? Isn't sewage the same water that is running into my home, running out of my home? How are the numbers provided on my bill true and how is this rate increase justified? It is not fair that being the only water/sewer provider for my area, I have absolutley no choice but to pay the bill.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I absolutley would make an appearance and protest this increase. The hearing should be scheduled in the evening so it is fair to homeowners to voice their concerns and not have to miss a day of work to do so.

Signature Required:

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 11:07 AM
To: 'Leanna Vinson'
Subject: RE: [External] NI America/Palmetto Utilities Letter of Protest - Cost Increase
Attachments: 2019-281-S NOH.pdf

Dear Ms. Vinson,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

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I have attached the Notice of Hearing for this Docket to this email.

Sincerely,

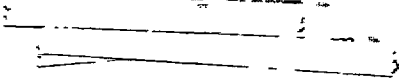
Deborah Easterling
 Executive Assistant
 803-896-5133

From: Leanna Vinson
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 9:22 AM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] NI America/Palmetto Utilities Letter of Protest - Cost Increase

To Whom it May Concern:

I have attached my letter of protest for the proposed NI America/Palmetto Utilities Cost Increase. Please respond to this email confirming you have received my letter of protest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,
Leanna Vinson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leanna Vinson", written over a horizontal line.



* Required Fields

Letter of Protest

Docket No. _____

Date: * 01/20/2020

Protestant Information:

Name * Leanna Vinson

Mailing Address * _____

City, State Zip * Columbia SC 29229

Phone * _____

E-mail _____

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of NI America/Palmetto Utilities that is the subject of this pending proceeding.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am protesting the proposed cost increase of the NI America/Palmetto Utilities sewer bill as it is unreasonable and unfair to customers. When I bought my house in July 2016, the sewer bill was \$38 per month. A few years ago, it increased to \$52.10. Now, it is being proposed to increase yet again to over \$66 per month. This is not fair to customers. Public Service Commission - please do what is right and do not allow this cost increase.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I am willing to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony as well

Signature Required: Leanna Vinson



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk/Executive Director
Phone: (803) 896-5133
Fax: (803) 896-5246

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Justin T. Williams, Sixth District
G. O'Neal Hamilton, Seventh District

Clerk's Office
Phone: (803) 896-5100
Fax: (803) 896-5199

January 21, 2020

Mr. Vince Scotti

Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Dear Mr. Scotti,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letters of Protest/Comments, dated January 14, 2020, to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letters of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

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If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant

January 14, 2020

Ms. Florance Belser, PSC

101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100

Columbia Sc 29210

Dear Ms. Belser,

I am writing you because the PSC web-site states that you represent a part of Richland County. Since I do not know whether you or Commissioner Williams is my "representative," I am writing to you both.

There is an upcoming meeting, during which the proposed rate increase by Palmetto Utilities is going to be reviewed. I would like to remind you about a few things. Two years ago, the Company asked to move from a usage basis to a flat fee. The fee that they proposed and the PSC approved was over \$52. In talking to 10 of my neighbors I found our average bill had been closer to \$30, in spite of the Company's position that the proposed amount was the average. That resulted in a 70% increase in our cost of sewerage. Now the Company wants another 30% increase for those services, thereby almost tripling my charge for waste water treatment. How can you, as the PSC, approve such increases?

As I stated earlier in another meeting, NI/ America is driven by a few people who were very successful in the field of "merger and acquisitions." This whole scenario sounds like a repeat of the character "Gordon Gecko" from the movie "Wallstreet." The goal was to find a small utility that was relatively stagnant in a state where the regulatory body showed no desire to resist increases. They hit the mother lode in acquiring Palmetto Utilities.

Ms. Belser the charter for the PSC states that it is supposed to provide the customer with "appropriate level of customer satisfaction." Trust me, I am NOT a satisfied customer with either the Utility nor the PSC. I look forward to the meeting on April 28th.

Yours truly,



Vince Scotti

Columbia, SC 29223

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2020

**PSC SC
MAIL / DMS**